

**Sweat replaces noon entree***Civilians, Soldiers, family members opt for exercise*

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Fort Riley Post

Junior ROTC cadets compete*Junction City High School battalion hosts Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet*

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Friday, April 8, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 14

Around The Army**Aberdeen:**

The APG News reported March 24 that the Ordnance Museum Foundation was making plans for a new museum facility to house the many artifacts collected and stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The current museum facility contains thousands of artifacts including muskets, pistols, rifles, machine guns, missiles, tanks and self-propelled guns. More than 200 tanks and self-propelled guns are displayed on the museum's 25-acre "tank farm."

For more about this story and other Aberdeen Proving Ground news, visit www.apgnews.apg.army.mil on the Web.

Fort Benning:

The Bayonet reported March 25 that a motorcycle accident had killed a Soldier and his wife March 13.

They hit a sports utility vehicle that was being backed out of a driveway in a residential area about 95 miles from Fort Benning, Ga.

For more on this story and other Fort Benning news, visit www.thebayonet.com on the Web.

Alaska:

The Alaska Post reported March 25 that a first lieutenant with the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, had finished ninth of 42 competitors riding mountain bikes in the 350-mile Iditarod Trail Invitational.

A competitive bicyclist for the past 10 years, 1st Lt. Rob Dapice finished the race in five days and three hours.

For more on this story and Army news in Alaska, visit www.usarak.army.mil on the Web.

Hawaii:

The Hawaii Army Weekly reported March 4 that military police dogs at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan had been issued bullet-proof vests.

The dogs are outfitted with the vests whenever they are used in extraction missions and area searches. The dogs and their handlers assigned to the 25th Military Police Company often serve as the main tool for finding hidden weapons or individuals in hiding, the paper reported.

For more on this story and other news about Hawaii units, visit www.25idl.army.mil/havasp on the Web.

Fort Irwin:

The High Desert Warrior reported March 17 that the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Horse Detachment was training with opposing forces at the National Training Center.

The detachment reportedly provides a unique element and teaches valuable lessons to complacent units that do not take seriously any threat posed by a horse unit.

For more about this story and other Fort Irwin news, visit www.irwin.army.mil/ on the Web.

NCO earns OIF Medal of Honor

Army News Service**Inside:**

See page 4 for more stories and photos relating to Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith earning the Medal of Honor.

WASHINGTON — An Army senior noncommissioned officer became the first servicemember awarded the Medal of Honor April 4 for actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The nation honored Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith as President George W. Bush presented his

family the nation's highest award for valor on the second anniversary of Smith's courageous actions during the Battle of Baghdad Airport.

In action near the Baghdad Airport on April 4, 2003, Smith, then serving as a platoon sergeant in Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, was working with units of the 3rd Infantry Division.

The engineers were tasked to build a compound to hold enemy prisoners, when more than 100 insurgents attacked Smith's small force.

Smith threw two grenades and fired rocket launchers at the enemy before manning a .50-caliber machine gun on an M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier to protect his troops.

While engaging the enemy

attacking from three sides, Smith fired more than 300 rounds from the machine gun before being killed.

He prevented the enemy from overtaking his unit's position, protected the flank of Task Force 2-7 and defended the lives of more than 100 Soldiers, according to his award citation.

Smith had served in the Army since October 1989.



Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith

Serious play



19th PAD/Tamez

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Burgstrom (left) of HHC, 2nd Bn., 130th Armor, checks the status of Staff Sgt. Jacob Myers (portraying wounded Soldier), 1st Bn., 108th Armor, under the observation of Staff Sgt. Bouaphet Phavongsa, instructor, National Health Service, during final qualification testing for combat lifesaver specialists.

Guard medics test lifesaving skills

By James Tamez

19th PAD

Amidst the smoke, flying bullets and incoming mortar rounds, one Soldier can be the difference between an injured comrade making it home alive ... or not.

The 24th Infantry Division (Mech) Surgeon's Office is responsible for ensuring medics of the 48th Brigade Combat Team receive the training necessary to ensure

they are prepared for similar circumstances during their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

To accomplish this, Surgeon's Office representatives from the division and 1st Army have been running a combat medic refresher and transition training course at Fort Stewart, Ga., for the deploying medics.

"(Our course) is an Army medical approved program of instruction for all medics who are going overseas into a com-

bat zone," said Maj. Dustin Elder, division medical planner. All 180-plus medics assigned to the 48th are required to take the training, Elder said.

For the training, the division used 16 medical instructors from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, home of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and U.S. Army Medical Command.

See Training, Page 6

Lopez named Soldier of Year

Hygienist tops field of region's dental command**By Jan Clarke**

LACH

Spc. Adriana Lopez, a dental hygienist assigned to the Dental Activity at Fort Riley, claimed the title of 2005 Soldier of the Year for Great Plains Region 1 Dental Command in competition Feb. 16-18 at Fort Hood, Texas.

Lopez, a married Soldier with five years active duty time, said preparation was the key for the many faceted event. "You can be good physically, but if you don't study and prepare for the oral and written por-



Spc. Adriana Lopez

See Lopez, Page 2

48th post Soldier killed in attack

Staff report

Cpl. William D. Richardson, 23, of Moreno Valley, Calif., died April 3 in Baghdad, Iraq, when he came under enemy attack and fell into a canal.

Richardson was an Infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

He enlisted in the Army in February 2002.

Richardson had been stationed at Fort Riley since August 2002 and deployed for a second rotation to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2005.

A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m. April 8 at Morris Hill Chapel.

About 4,300 Fort Riley Soldiers are deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. This incident brings the number of Fort Riley Soldiers who have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to 48.

Black Hawks land at Marshall Airfield

82nd Med. Co.'s 'birds' return after year flying in desert

Staff reports

Seven of the 15 UH-60 helicopters belonging to the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) returned to Fort Riley April 1.

Three more arrived April 4. Five helicopters were flown to Fort Campbell, Ky., where they will be going through a reset program, said Capt. Anthony Timanus, the company's adjutant.

"Basically, they take them apart, fix what's wrong with them and clean them out," he said.

The aircraft, transported by ship, took about a month to return to the United States from Iraq.

The helicopters arrived recently at port in Beaumont, Texas.

It took six hours for crews to make the flight home, including stopping and refueling time.

Now that they're back, the aircraft will need to be worked on, Timanus said.

"We'll put them through 30-day reconstitution, replace parts and get them back up to standards to fly in the United States," he said. "Then, we're going to use them for training."

The 82nd Med. Co. flew more than 2,600 hours during their recent year-long deployment to Iraq.



Post/Blackmon

An 82nd Med. Co. (AA) crew unloads gear after landing at Marshall Army Air Field April 1.

See 82nd Med. Co., Page 3





Posts promised money

Future funding increased to 90 percent

By Eric Cramer
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army has implemented a new policy that will increase annual funding for installations, Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey said March 23.

Army leaders have set a goal of funding installations at an annual rate of 90 percent of validated requirements for base operations services and for sustainment, restoration and modernization, he said.

The Army chief of staff told Congress the Army will begin funding BOS and SRM at 90 percent annually beginning with the fiscal year 2007 budget.

“Well-being of Soldiers is a No. 1 priority for me,” Harvey said. “We decided to fund 90 percent of both what is called the ‘BOS’ and SRM. ... This is a significant change from past policy.”

BOS funding was set at 95 percent in fiscal year 2001, 88 percent in FY 2002, 90 percent in FY 2003, 65 percent in FY 2004 and 68 percent in FY 2005. SRM funding was set at 72 percent in FY 2001, 94 percent in FY 2002, 91 percent in FY 2003, 88 percent in FY 2004 and 79 percent in FY 2005.

About \$1.3 billion would be needed to provide 90 percent funding of requirements for BOS and SRM in FY 2005.

FY 2006 projections put BOS spending at 72 percent of requirements and SRM projections at 91 percent of requirements.

Harvey said the Army will continue an aggressive barracks modernization program to bring all

Army barracks up to the current standard.

“I want that cleared up this year,” he said. “We can’t ask our Soldiers to go into harm’s way and then ask them to live in sub-standard housing.”

The Army will continue to program the goal of 95 percent for SRM set by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

New policy increases funding

The new BOS and SRM policy will increase funding for installations. The Army Budget Office will distribute the funding in phases through the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the Installation Management Agency.

Harvey said the funds will come from other parts of the Army’s budget as the Army identifies programs lagging in execution during its annual budget review.

“We have reprogramming flexibility,” he said. “I just reprioritized the funding.” He said the funding would be provided in a number of phases.

IMA will program the funds to provide infrastructure upgrades and services that have been most lacking during recent months.

Policy brings more predictability

Funding installations to 90 percent of requirements provides a more predictable level of funding that gives garrison commanders more control in managing their

communities, he said.

A \$7 million deficit prompted Fort Meade, Md., to impose a hiring freeze and to propose a reduction in recreation activities as well as cuts to spending for facilities management and environmental compliance, according to an article in the Feb. 17 Soundoff, the post’s weekly newspaper.

The paper reported that Fort Meade received 70 percent of the funds it requested from the Installation Management Agency-Northeast Region for base operations in FY 2005.

The High Desert Warrior newspaper at Fort Irwin, Calif., reported Feb. 10 that the post faced a critical shortage in its garrison budget. “We have a validated Installation Management Agency requirement of \$104.2 million to run the garrison. Of that we were given \$72 million,” the paper quoted Lt. Col. Richard Sobrato, garrison commander.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker has supported the funding change.

“Our installations serve as our flagships of readiness,” Schoomaker said. “The environment in which our Soldiers train, our civilians work and our families live plays a key role in attracting, recruiting and retaining the high quality people the Army needs. To enhance combat effectiveness and enrich the workplace setting, we are reinforcing our commitment to our Army family.”

Editor’s note: Some information for this article was provided by Strategic Communications Division, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Department of the Army.

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Lopez, continued from page 1

tions of the competition, you’ll not succeed. The physical isn’t enough to make the grade.”

To prove her point, Lopez was tied with another Soldier until the final day and the oral board com-

petition. That’s where she excelled and claimed the title.

Lopez advances to competition for Dental Command Soldier of the Year, which was scheduled to begin April 7.



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Ceremony honors retirees

Eight Soldiers, one civilian leave service

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

Eight retiring Soldiers and one civilian were recognized for their military service in a ceremony at Riley's Conference Center March 30.

Each Soldier received a Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony. The medals recognized their outstanding military service.

One Soldier, Col. Rufus Y. Bandy III, received the Legion of Merit for his exceptionally outstanding service, and Ms. Ann Murphy received the Commander's Award for civilian service.

Retirees' spouses received certificates of appreciation recognizing their contributions and thanking them for the support they gave to their sponsors' careers.

Rufus, of Dental Activity, retired after 28 years of military

service. He plans to live in Manhattan and continue dental work.

Chief Warrant Officer William D. Schmidt of 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), 541st Maintenance Battalion, retired after 20 years of military service. He plans to live in Minnesota and pilot helicopters for the Mayo Clinic.

1st Sgt. Mary L. Fitzsimmons of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), retired after 21 years of military service. She plans to live in Junction City and relax at home.

Master Sgt. Harry F. Stiner II of HHC, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), retired after 20 years of military service. He plans to build a home and live in Junction City.

Sgt. 1st Class Baum S. Chae of Company B, 101st Forward Support Battalion, retired after 20 years of military service. He plans

to live in Alaska and seek employment with the government.

Sgt. 1st Class Ronny D. Blunt of Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion, retired after 20 years of military service. He plans to retire in the local area and seek employment with Konza Drilling.

Sgt. 1st Class Frederick E.F. Wilkins of HHC, 1st Engineer Battalion, retired after 21 years of military service. He plans to live in Arizona and seek employment.

Sgt. Tony D. Flynn of 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Maint. Bn., retired after 20 years of military service. He plans to live in Kansas and seek employment with the government.

Murphy of the Army Education Center retired after 18 years of federal service. She plans to live in Manhattan, travel and spend time with her grandchildren.



Post/Blackmon
Soldiers of 82nd Med. Co. (AA) attach securing cables to rotor blades after the Black Hawks belonging to the company arrived from Texas April 1.

Helicopters continued from page 1

The 150 Soldiers with the 82nd Med. Co. returned from their second rotation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2005.

Many Soldiers were on leave

while the helicopters were on their way home.

Others settled back into their offices and work areas while waiting for the equipment to return.

"We just do busy work until we

get our aircraft back, mopping floors, stuff like that," said Sgt. Ryan Hara.

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Soldiers tell of Smith's courage under fire

WASHINGTON — Like any account of combat, reports of the day Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith died are different, depending on the perspective of the witnesses.

What is clear is that he died performing a Soldier's duty and protecting his troops in the strong tradition of U.S. Army noncommissioned officers.

A day of battle

It was a busy day for U.S. troops throughout Iraq. Smith's engineer unit was supporting Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry, as part of the 3rd Infantry Division's movement on Baghdad.

"The thing I remember most was the speed and continuity of movement," said Lt. Col. Thomas Smith, 11th Engineer Battalion commander. "We had two primary missions on the march to Baghdad, to secure a crossing on the Euphrates River and to take and hold the Baghdad airport."

The battalion commander said it was "professionally exhilarating" to find his unit on its objective, on April 4, 2003.

Late the preceding night, or early that morning, his battalion had helped units from the 3rd Infantry Division take Saddam Hussein International Airport. As the sun rose, its Soldiers were moving to secure that airport and continue with the assault on Baghdad.

Capt. Brian Borkowski, then a lieutenant in the 11th Eng. Bn., was Smith's platoon leader.

"Initially, we had no mission that morning, other than defense of what became called the 'four corners' intersection outside the airport," Borkowski said. "The recon(naissance) south of that position and called for engineer support. I talked about it with Sgt. (1st Class) Smith, and left the platoon with him while I went off with an Armored Combat Earthmover to support that mission."

Borkowski said he and Smith had a conversation on the median of the highway before they parted.



OCBA/Crisser

Shortly after unveiling her late husband's new headstone, Birgit Smith visits his grave April 5 at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. Smith's husband, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith, was mortally wounded saving his platoon in Operation Iraqi Freedom and is the first Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor in the conflict.

"We did what we call a 'gotwa,' just to determine who was going where," Borkowski said. "Then I left to help with the recon."

An engineer mission

While Borkowski worked with the infantry, his platoon received orders to create a compound to hold enemy prisoners. The battalion commander called it "a boilerplate engineer mission."

Borkowski said Sgt. 1st Class Smith identified the spot to create this compound based on an earlier conversation they had.

Borkowski said the area of highway near the airport included compounds belonging to Saddam Hussein's Republican Guards.

These walled compounds featured observation towers. From the area of these towers, the unit was taking sporadic fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

"We talked about the fact that we couldn't see where the fire was coming from, because we were only 100 feet or so from this wall," Borkowski said. "So Sgt.

(1st Class) Smith told me he was going to knock a hole in that wall, so we could put some eyes on the other side of it. When the order came down to build that compound, he apparently decided to use the same place where he'd knocked the hole in the wall."

Sgt. Matthew Keller was in the compound when Smith began to build the holding pen.

"When we first got out there, we were taking a lot of indirect fire, RPGs blowing up in the tops of trees and stuff. We were also getting some sniper fire, and I actually saw the sniper and knocked him down," Keller said.

"Once the hole was knocked in the wall, they went in and started working on the area. I was still outside, but they apparently sent a couple of Soldiers forward to look out the gate at the compound, and that's when the enemy was spotted," Keller said.

"I remember when they saw the enemy, Sgt. (1st Class) Smith got two grenades and threw them," he added.

Reports from other Soldiers

indicate an M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier towing a trailer entered the compound while Keller was still outside. A short time later, Smith radioed for a Bradley Fighting Vehicle to aid in holding the position.

Keller said he entered the compound at about the same time that the Bradley came in to support Smith's efforts.

Enemy in sight

"Sgt. (1st Class) Smith and I went out the front of the gate along with the Bradley and that's when I saw the enemy. There were 15 or 20 of them and they appeared to have some fighting positions about 175 meters out," Keller said. "Sgt. (1st Class) Smith had a scope so he could see them better than me and he started to fire."

Keller said Smith sent him for an AT-4 rocket launcher, which he prepped and Smith fired at the enemy.

"Then I got another one and he went around in front of the wall to get some other Soldiers with

heavier guns. I got three, one with the Squad Automatic Weapon and the other with the 240B, and me and Sgt. (1st Class) Smith had a plan to assault across the field," Keller said. "He sent me to get a jacket with the M-203 (40mm-grenade launcher) ammo. Sgt. (Louis) Berwald tossed the jacket to me, and I ran around the wall. That's when an RPG hit the Bradley and a mortar round hit the M-113 at about the same time."

Three Soldiers were injured by the mortar impact, including Berwald, and others began to evacuate them from the site.

"That was when Sgt. (1st Class) Smith made a decision with the gallantry worthy of the Medal of Honor," Lt. Col. Smith said.

"He got in the M-113 with Spec. Michael Seaman, but he didn't tell Seaman, (an APC driver) to get them out of there, he had him back up to just the point where he could cover all three of the Republican Guard targets: the tower, the wall and the gate. We know he went through three boxes of ammunition," he recalled.

Keller, fighting his own fight, saw Smith in action.

"I was standing, shooting the 203 while he (Sgt. 1st Class Smith) was getting the casualties evacuated. When the Bradley started backing up, I went back into the compound, and that's when I saw Sgt. (1st Class) Smith on the .50-cal on the 113. I hollered at him to come out of there, and he did a cut motion across his throat with his hand saying he wasn't leaving," Keller said.

After seeing to some of the other Soldiers, Keller returned to help a group of Soldiers attempt to remove the trailer from the M-113. "I asked where Sgt. (1st Class) Smith was, and one of the other troops said he was gone," Keller said.

Smith had been struck in the head while manning a .50-caliber Browning machine gun to cover the movement of other Soldiers out of the compound. Although Soldiers at the scene attempted resuscitation, it was unsuccessful.

The medal

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — Although it has always been awarded for action above and beyond the call of duty, the Medal of Honor has undergone changes in appearance and function since its creation during the Civil War.

When Abraham Lincoln signed the law authorizing the first medals in 1862, the award was for enlisted men only, said Carol Cepregi of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

"In 1863 they passed a new law extending the medal to officers. That was passed before any of the medals were actually awarded," Cepregi said.

The Navy's version of the medal was the first to be struck. It is in the shape of a simple star, and that shape is retained in the medal awarded by the Navy.

Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard. Its center contains an illustration of the Greek goddess of war, Minerva, repelling a figure known as "discord."

The Army's medal is a star surrounded by a wreath. It was developed in 1904.

The Air Force version of the Medal of Honor also has a wreath, but instead of the head of Minerva, it bears the head of the statue of liberty in its center. It was adopted in 1965.

Whatever the service or version, the criteria for receiving the medal have always involved service beyond the call of duty. Until 1940, that service did not have to include combat, Cepregi said.

NCO supervisor talks about Smith

Sergeant 'took ... ownership'

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Athletes have served America's youth as role models in years past. Master Sgt. Timothy Campbell thought aloud recently.

"With the global war, Soldiers now more than ever are role models for our younger generation," he continued. "I think (Sgt 1st Class Paul Smith was certainly a fine example."

Campbell, operation noncommissioned officer with the 937th Engineer Group at Fort Riley, was referring to the first Soldier awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He spoke from personal knowledge of the "hard-headed" platoon sergeant. Campbell was first sergeant for Smith's 11th Engineer Battalion company the day Smith earned the nation's highest award for valor.

On April 4, 2003, the day Smith died, Campbell said the 11th Eng. Bn. Sapper demonstrated each of the four tenets of the warrior ethos.

Smith put the mission first, he would not surrender, he never quit until he had been killed and not one of his Soldiers or any Soldier with him felt Smith would have left them behind, Campbell said.

The master sergeant now stationed at Fort Riley remembers Smith as a very "particular" leader. "He would generally get things right, but if it wasn't done right the first time, he would do it all over again," Campbell recalled.

"He put a lot of attention on detail. He took personal owner-

ship of what his platoon did, and that was a good thing, Campbell said.

One area Smith emphasized was packing all the gear that would be needed when the company deployed, Campbell said. That was important, he said, because "if you forget something, you can't go back" to Fort Stewart and get it.

Soldiers had to make do with what they had, what they brought, Campbell emphasized.

Long before the Army authorized its engineers to wear Sapper tabs if they finished the branch's leadership school, Smith was proud to be a Sapper, Campbell said.

The Sapper school compares to Ranger school, he explained. "It's shorter but just as tough, if not tougher." In the summer of 2004, the Army authorized trained Sappers to wear the tab, just as Rangers wear theirs, on the shoulder sleeve of their uniform.

The fact that the first Medal of Honor awarded for actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom went to an engineer, to a Sapper, gives other engineers something to be proud of, but it's not something they all can feel an intimate connection to, Campbell said.

The medal is an individual award. It was earned by Smith with little help from anyone else and was presented posthumously to his family, Campbell reminded.

"It's something they'll have to remind them of him, and that's the way it should be," Campbell said, even while admitting that Smith's heroic story won't soon be forgotten and will become a part of the Army's and the Engineer Corps' history.

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Commentary

Friday, April 8, 2005

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What do you do to relieve physical, mental and emotional stress?



"I like to run. It gives me a way to get out of the office and away from people."

Sgt. Myra Kennedy
Supply
Detachment 2,
170th Maintenance Company
Home: Topeka, Kan.



"I work out a lot - six days a week, twice a day."

Sgt. Sandy Kitzinger
Personnel NCO
172nd Transportation Company
Home: Heilbronn, Germany



"I work for chaplains, so I can talk to them. They're really good listeners. Their counseling side really comes out."

Staff Sgt. Tony Setzer
Chaplain's Assistant
HHC, 1st Brigade
Home: Lenoir, N.C.



"I do sports - basketball or football. I like playing organized sports whenever I can."

Staff Sgt. Greg Thompson
Flight Medic
82nd Medical Company (AA)
Home: Hampton, Ark.



"Sports, especially basketball. This time of year, the NCAA tournament is all I watch."

1st Sgt. Tommy Williams
Track Vehicle Repair
648th Area Support Group
Home: St. Louis, Mo.

Next week's question:

What is the best spring and summer activity for people at Fort Riley to do and enjoy?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

As teenager, I survived; you can, too

Military life

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

I am an Army brat. At times, I now admit, I really was a brat. But life isn't easy when you're growing up in the military. The moves, the deployments - they get to us brats, too.

We moved around every three years or so. I can recount going to some 13 schools - a few times three schools in one year.

I enjoyed the popularity that came with being the new girl and the opportunity to meet new people, but I loathed saying good-byes and having to start over again. It never got easier, like I told myself it would. In fact, the older I got, the more difficult it became.

The hardest move was in high school. I went to Junction City High School for a year and a half. I played basketball, was on the newspaper staff and in several clubs. I was having a good time, enjoying the friends I had made over the years and the big brown Outlast Supreme my parents had bought for me to drive to and from school.

Then the news came: we were moving halfway across the world to Germany. At first it was going to be over the summer. I had nearly a year to prepare for it. Then, circumstances changed.

In a matter of days, that year to prepare became a month. I had just earned a starting junior varsity basketball position; I was working my way up on the newspaper staff; I was doing well on



April Blackmon

the Scholar's Bowl team. I wasn't ready to move, and especially so quickly. I mean, Germany sounded cool, but I just couldn't leave in the middle of high school. I thought my

life was over. But I did my duty, packed up my things, said my goodbyes and boarded a plane to Germany on Christmas Eve. We arrived to an apartment with about five pieces of Army-borrowed furniture in it. My bedroom was so empty it echoed. I had only a bed and a green wool blanket. That was how I lived until our stuff arrived after what seemed an eternity later. It actually was just a month or two.

I remember the first thing I wanted to do at my new "home" was practice basketball to try to make the school's team. The local PX was out of basketballs. What kind of store has no basketballs? And, really, if the store was that lame, what kind of town was I living in? I felt right then that I wasn't going to like the place.

My parents knew I really needed that basketball. They took me to the nearest base - nearly two hours away - just to find a ball. They were trying to help me

feel at home in a strange land and get me to stop complaining about my situation.

School was still on winter break, so I had no teammates to practice with. I knew no one in town, so my mom, a former ball player, and my dad, who was more into band and my brother, who was more into football and wrestling, played with me in the snow, rain and freezing weather just to help me stay in shape for my new school's team.

While there were times I felt like I was the only person in the world going through this move, it helped to know my family was in the same situation.

After a few weeks that seemed more like years, I was finally able to practice with my new team. I went from a JV player in a big school to a varsity starter at a small school. I started in my first game after only two practices. I was an instant star. The guys nicknamed me "Shaq" because I was the tallest player on the team and knocked girls down to get to the ball. I started to realize that my move might not be as life ending as I had pictured it.

I went from a school of 3,000 or so to a school of about 300. Even though it was an all-Army brat school, I still stood out - I think partly because I was a head taller than many of my peers.

And while I missed Junction City and my friends, I was willing to attempt to tolerate life in Germany. After all, the new-girl popularity does have its perks.

By the end of the school year, my "new girl" status was up. I had made tons of new friends and had become well established in sports and on the newspaper staff.

When the nearby military base closed and a whole slew of new people arrived over the summer, I was one of the "ambassadors" welcoming new people to my town and my school. That was a great feeling - to be able to welcome people whose shoes I had worn just six months earlier. I knew what they were going through and used my experiences to help them adjust to their new "home."

Two and a half years later, I graduated with some of the closest friends I have ever had. I admit, I always wondered how life would've been had I stayed in Junction City. At the same time, I saw how awesome the life was that I was living. I met so many people. I traveled Europe and saw places my friends back in Junction City were reading about in their history books. I not only survived the trauma of moving during high school, I made a great life out of it.

It wasn't easy being a teenager, and it certainly wasn't easy moving thousands of miles from "home." But I guess my parents were right when they said it was "all for the best." It just took me awhile to realize what "the best" really was. It was what I chose to make of my life in my given situation.

Post Easter egg hunt needs improvement

Letter to editor

I don't know who organized the Easter Egg Hunt at Riley's Conference Center, but they should think their system over. I am a mom of a 2- and 3-year-old. We went in a very excited and happy Easter mood to the Easter Egg Hunt on March 27. We left very disappointed and a little upset. Both my kids didn't get lucky (not even one egg!) and cried.

When we arrived, everybody stood around in that beautiful park not exactly knowing what would happen next. I found out from a lady on one of the prize tables there were three different age groups and the kids up to 4 years old would go first, then the 5-7 and then the 8-12.

When we were told "now," the children had to run in the field and pick up the eggs...very fast. Parents were not allowed to go in there with them.

What do I explain to my crying child, who didn't get one egg? Sorry, you were too slow. I think organizers should think their system over, because:

- It is very unfair, if you have a 1-year-old, who just learned how to walk and needs a long time to spot something, trying to compete with a 4-year-old that pushes him or her out of the way or rips the egg out of his or her hands.

Suggestion: If they really have to do it this way, they should separate each age group. Let the 1-, the 2-, the 3-, the 4- and maybe the 5-year-old go on their hunts separately.

No matter which age group I was watching, it seemed like this egg hunt taught the kids how to push, be rude and unfair to get what they want. It was a chaotic and aggressive game.

Suggestion: Before I went to Riley's Conference Center, I didn't know what to expect and thought everybody might go for a walk around the park and search for the eggs along the path, in the bushes, behind trees, etc. This way everybody would get some exercise, could enjoy a walk with the family and the children could run around and go for an exciting egg hunt. For the very little ones, they could hand out a few eggs that the parents can hide for them along the path, so no child would go home without having the adventure of "I found one!"

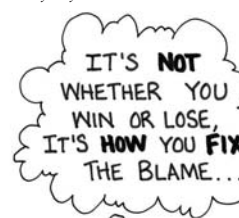
- Why hard candy for 1 or 2 year olds? Parents have to fight to take it from them after they found it so they don't choke on it.

I hope this offers some helpful ideas to make the next Easter egg hunt enjoyable and happy for everybody.

Heike Pleava

Grunt

By Wayne Uhden



FORT RILEY POST

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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas):





Training

continued from page 1

"We have supported these instructors with everything they need to accomplish their training mission. The biggest part was getting all of the medical equipment and instructors here," Elder said.

The Army recently combined two military occupational skills, 91B (Combat Medic) and 91C (Licensed Practical Nurse), to create the 91W (Health Care Specialist) MOS.

This new position focuses the medics' efforts toward helping to save lives on the battlefield, maintaining care until the patient can be removed to a medical facility and providing more highly trained medics for service in hospital wards.

"There are things these Soldiers need to be able to do as medics," said Master Sgt. Douglas Mayes, predeployment non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, 13th Bn., National Health Services.

"We try to make the training as realistic as possible so that these Soldiers will have the confidence to do their jobs. It helps place them in a proper mindset when there is a lot to deal with. They have to be able to manage the scene, care for the patients correctly, have a good count on the number of patients and use the proper equipment on the

patients," he said.

Elder said these Soldiers are among the first to go through the recently approved 21-day recertification training that was specially tailored for the 48th BCT medics.

"Not only are these Soldiers getting combat trauma training, which is vital for their mission, they are getting all the latest After Action Review comments coming out of the Iraqi theater," Elder said. "This is all geared towards what they may see in Iraq."

Because of the number of medics assigned to the 48th BCT, multiple cycles were arranged to ensure everyone was properly trained.

The cycle consisted of classroom instruction and hands-on training. During the final three days of the training cycle, the medics were tested to determine what they had learned during the class.

Instructors set up a mock dining facility that had taken mortar fire, leaving multiple casualties. Soldiers made up with simulated wounds, complete with fake blood, and medical training dummies served as casualties.

"The training seems pretty realistic," said Sgt. 1st Class Vincenzo Battaglia, HHC, 1st Bn., 108th Armor, 48th BCT. "They

have sound, visuals (poor lighting and smoke) and obstacles the medics have to work around. There is debris around the patients and they aren't perfectly on their back like they would be in an emergency room. They are in between barricades, on chairs and against walls."

This particular scenario was used to see how the Soldiers would react in a combat situation. "Medics have to find the patients,

triage them quickly, identify which ones have life-threatening wounds and treat them based upon the signs and symptoms that are shown by the wounded," Elder said.

"This is dual purpose training that all 91Ws have to go through," he said. "When they complete this course and pass the tests, they will be qualified as National Registry Emergency Medical Technicians, have certification in pre-hospital

trauma life support, get trauma airways certification and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. Finally, to receive this certification the Soldiers have to pass the semi-annual Combat Medic Skills Validation Test."

Mayes said this type of training is necessary to make sure Soldiers will be able to face dangerous situations and be confident they can handle it.

"The casualties that we take in

war are minimized by the medics," Mayes said. "The numbers that survive and come home to their families are increased dramatically by medics knowing what to do and how to do it. Our goal is for them to have the confidence to save lives. Then we will have accomplished our mission."

Pfc. James Tamez was on assignment with 24th Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Sewart, Ga., when this story was written.



19th PAD/Tamez

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Willis (left), 1st Bn., 108th Armor, (left), receives instructions from Sgt. 1st Class Denise Campbell, National Health Service, on how to treat a female casualty during 91W testing.

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Post news in brief

Skin screening scheduled

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Dermatology Clinic will conduct skin cancer screening April 13, 20 and 27. No referral is required. To make an appointment, call 239-3627.

Warrant officer team to visit

A warrant officer recruiting team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky., will visit Fort Riley April 11-15 to brief interested Soldiers on the qualifications and application procedures for becoming a U.S. Army warrant officer.

Current shortages include military intelligence, food service, criminal investigations and special forces.

Briefings will be at 1:30 p.m. April 11, 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. April 12-14 and 9:30 a.m. April 15 in Room 2 of the Education Services Center, Building 7285, on Normandy Drive.

For more information, call Chief Warrant Officer Anthony L. Edwards at (502) 626-0328 or DSN 536-0328/0271.

Family leader training April 19

Family Readiness Group Leader Basic Training is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 19 at the Soldier and Family Support Center.

The course presents information about the responsibilities of a FRG leader, effective way of communicating with family

members, the importance of distributing accurate information and more.

The training is primarily aimed at new FRG leaders, but anyone in the readiness group may attend.

For more information, call 239-9435.

Mail operations training planned

The Postal Operations Center will conduct Introduction to Unit Mailroom Operations Training for unit mailroom clerks, mail orderlies and postal officers from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 13 in Building 319.

The class will focus on how to handle official mail and non-official mail and how to operate and maintain unit mailrooms.

For more information or to register, call Herb Eley, project manager, at 239-5411.

Open season starts April 15

The Thrift Saving Plan will offer its last open season April 15 through June 30.

Currently, open season is the only time during which investors may change the amounts of their ongoing investments, although they may change how those investments are allocated among the investment funds at any time.

Open season also is the only time an eligible person who is not currently investing may begin to do so.

Starting July 1, those restrictions will be lifted, although the policy will be continued that government contributions for

newly hired employees don't begin until after a waiting period has passed.

For more information, call Human Resources Assistant Durlene Z. Bryson at 239-0688.

Hospital staff teaches classes

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Nutrition Care Division offers weight control classes, including family member weight control, a weight support group for family members and retirees and a Weight to Stay program for active duty servicemembers.

For information on these programs, call 239-7644.

Severe weather class available

Jim Hill of the Directorate of Environment and Safety will give a severe weather briefing to units, directorates and family member groups interested in learning about tornado and lightning safety, what to do and not to do in case of severe weather and learning more about Kansas tornado and lightning statistics and general facts and myths.

To get more information or to schedule a class, call Hill at 239-0446.

DES staff slates team training

The Directorate of Environment and Safety has scheduled the following training courses during April:

Environmental Team Training Refresher: Annual refresher to the Environmental Team

training course.

Class starts at 9 a.m. April 12 in Room 6 of Building 407. The class lasts 2 1/2 hours.

For information or to enroll in a class, call 239-0446 or check with the battalion schools non-commissioned officer.

Post closes Kitty Drive

Kitty Drive on Custer Hill will be closed until about Aug. 1 while the road's surface is replaced and its shoulders and drainage is improved.

The closed area stretches from the intersection with Desert Storm to the intersection with Estes Road. Both intersections will remain open to traffic.

'Medics' plan heat injury class

The Preventive Medicine Service of U.S. Army Medical Activity at Fort Riley will offer a heat injury awareness and prevention briefing at Barlow Theater from 9 to 11 a.m. May 4.

The class will cover types of heat injuries, treatment and prevention. Heat injury prevention is a yearly requirement for Fort Riley Soldiers.

Family members are welcome to attend.

Classes also are available to units on a first-come, first-serve basis on Wednesdays April 15 through May 25. Available times for the one-hour classes are 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call Sgt. Russell Nurse, Sgt. Scott Fowle or Staff Sgt. Jody Gonzales at 239-7323.

Units reach, beat FY04 re-up goals

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Fort Riley leaders honored the Soldiers who play a key role in keeping other quality Soldiers in the Army at a special luncheon March 31 at Riley's Conference Center.

Each major subordinate command at Fort Riley reached or exceeded its goals for fiscal year 2004 re-enlistments in each of three categories: initial term Soldiers, mid-career Soldiers on at least their second enlistment but with fewer than 10 years service and careerists with more than 10 years service.

The 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, re-enlisted 100 percent, 104 percent and 129 percent of its respective goals.

The 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, re-enlisted 103 percent, 108 percent and 119 percent of its

goals.

The 937th Engineer Group re-enlisted 104 percent, 104 percent and 100 percent of its goals.

U.S. Army Garrison re-enlisted 112 percent, 100 percent and 100 percent of its goals.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Byington said the biggest inducement that got Soldiers to re-enlist in the 1st Bde. was getting future assignments they wanted.

"We re-enlisted 236 Soldiers," he said. "A lot of Soldiers also wanted to stay in and take advantage of (re-enlistment) bonuses."

Master Sgt. Rick Chewing said he got lots of help in making the retention program successful in the 937th Eng. Gp.

"You have to be forward thinking and keep leaders informed. There has to be open communication from the highest to the lowest level to keep Soldiers informed of what's available to them," he explained.

Individual awards

Twenty-one noncommissioned officers received individual awards recognizing their outstanding efforts in the Fort Riley retention program, their extraordinary resourcefulness, dedication to duty and professional competence. They were:

*Sgt 1st Class Scott Montgomery
Staff Sgt David Tillet
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Byington*

*Staff Sgt. Michael McGee
Staff Sgt. Michael Kindenburg*

*Staff St. Jeff Levesque
Sgt. 1st Class James Wiertz
Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Baker
Sgt 1st Class Valerie Venus
Staff Sgt. Scott Newhart
Staff Sgt. Robin Ayers
Staff Sgt. Leslie Wearing-Dixon
Sgt. Jeffery Lippy
Staff Sgt. John Reeder
Staff Sgt. Donald Laplante
Sgt. Sgt. Larry Graham
Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Scott
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Murphy
Sgt. Warren Williams
Staff Sgt. Michael Wheeler
Staff Sgt. Derik Smith*

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Directorate to host post fishing derby

DES

The Directorate of Environment and Safety will sponsor a fishing derby April 16 at Moon Lake on Fort Riley. The event will run from 8 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers from the DES and other installation activities will be available to help new or beginning anglers, young and old, learn some basic fishing skills. The lake will be stocked with several hundred rainbow trout just prior to the event.

The event is free, but those between the ages of 16 and 65 must have a valid Kansas fishing license in their possession to participate. No trout stamp will be required for this event, as it occurs after the end of the designated Kansas trout season.

Anglers will be able to keep any trout they catch, but normal creel and possession limits will apply for other species.

A few tagged fish will be in the lake, and prizes will be awarded to anglers who catch a tagged fish during the event.

Very limited facilities and amenities will be available, so participants should bring appropriate clothing for the weather, sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, etc. There will be no food or drink vendors, so participants may want to bring snacks and sodas.

Anglers should also bring their own fishing equipment – rods, reels, hooks, bait, etc. – but DES will have a very limited amount of equipment available for those who don't have their own.

No registration is required, so participants may arrive anytime after 8 a.m. or before 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call 239-6211, or send e-mail to afzncsn@nrlcy.army.mil.

Scouts keep road clear

Unit's efforts make travel safe along route

Editor's note: The following is a first-person account of a Soldier's experiences and observations while serving in Iraq.

By Chris Distifeno

Scout Platoon Leader
2nd Bn., 34th Armor

Units deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom have quickly learned that successful units are those that can adapt to their surroundings and perform non-traditional roles while maintaining proficiency in their core military occupation skills tasks.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, Scout Platoon have done all of this and more while keeping Alternate Supply Route Detroit open to civilian and military traffic during the recent Corps Main Supply Route switch.

ASR Detroit is a main artery linking Baghdad with several cities in northern Iraq.

In stark contrast to the recent history of Route Detroit, civilian and military traffic have enjoyed an unprecedented freedom of maneuver using the Corps MSR the past few weeks.

This has been achieved by removing the ability of the insurgent forces from emplacing complex and deadly improvised explosive devices along the route. Denying the enemy the use of terrain has been the task of the 2nd Bn., 34th Armor's, Scout Platoon, call sign "Saber."

Before the Scout Pltn. had



Iraqi Freedom

begun operations along the MSR, improvised explosive device emplacement teams had freedom of movement nightly to set up some of the most deadly IEDs in all of Iraq.

As a result, the insurgency forces exploited this ability and posed a great threat to civilian and military traffic.

The 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, deployed multiple assets, including sniper teams, unmanned aircraft and tanks.

Scouts spot diggers

Within hours of their first stake-out, the Scout Pltn. spotted three individuals digging and chipping away at the roadway just 100 meters from a previous IED crater.

The sniper teams moved in to detain the enemy, but the enemy escaped using their advanced knowledge of the terrain.

At first, this seemed like a disappointment, but after weeks of constant night operations, no other emplacement teams have been spotted and no complex IEDs have been laid.

It would seem the word has spread quite quickly among the insurgency forces who try to dis-

rupt operations along the 60-kilometer MSR that it is no longer safe to use the night as concealment for time-intensive IEDs.

The only IEDs found since the Scouts began their operations have been hastily dropped munitions. These poorly disguised bombs are obvious to the naked eye and are spotted well before friendly units get within dangerous range.

Convoys travel safely

This has kept military convoys safe and the Corps MSR open.

Civilian traffic also is safer and not held up for hours at messy IED blast sites. Military construction assets can now safely move in to repair the road quickly and then move on to more rewarding projects.

Keeping the Corps MSR open has been a tedious, often boring, always demanding but nevertheless critical task for the Scout Pltn. and for the reconstruction of Iraq.

RTT Detroit used to be the enemy's road, but the road now belongs to the Scouts of 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, and offers unfettered access to civilian and military traffic along one of the major commercial roads from Baghdad to the northern provinces.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, April 8, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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Sports news in brief

Softball umpire clinic set

A certifying clinic for slow pitch umpires will begin at 9:30 a.m. April 23 at Felter Park, SW 25th St. and Gage Blvd. in Topeka.

The clinic fee is \$15. A \$35 membership/umpire registration fee is also required.

The clinic is free to 2005 Kansas ASA registered umpires who show their umpire ID at the gate. Umpires are requested to wear their ASA umpire uniform and gear. For new umpires, ASA uniforms will be sold or may be ordered at the clinic.

For more information, visit www.kansassoftball.org. For rainout information, call 785-232-6120.

Apple Day Camp registration open

Manhattan Parks and Recreation is accepting registrations for the Little Apple Day Camp. The camp will run from May 31 to Aug. 5. The camp has several activities for children ages 5-12.

The fee is \$65 per week. Registration forms may be picked up at the Parks and Recreation office, 1101 Fremont, in City Park. For more information, call 587-2757.

Prairie Run training begins

Training for the annual Fort Riley Prairie Run begins April 11. Session are scheduled from 9 to 10 a.m. each Monday and Wednesday to help those wanting to compete in the annual distance runs of two, five and 10 miles July 23.

The 10-mile Prairie Run qualifies runners for the Fort Riley team that will run in the annual Army 10-miler run at the Association of the U.S. Army convention in Washington, D.C. All participants in the training program will be registered for the Prairie Run and receive a T-shirt at no cost.

Golf tourney scheduled

The Custer Hill Golf Course at Fort Riley will host an opening day tournament April 16. The general public may play on the course.

For more information about the tournament, cost of club membership and hours of operation, call 784-6000.

BOSS plans pong tourney

The Medical Department Activity representatives with Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will sponsor a post wide ping-pong tournament from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 10 at King Field House.

All the units on post have been may send five to seven substitutes for their unit.

For more information, call Pvt. Timothy Smith at 239-7131 or Pfc. Lola Logan at 239-7163.

Army seeks hoop applicants

Player applications for the All Army Men's Basketball Team are due April 20.

Applications should be faxed to DSN 491-2337, DSN 491-2802, (717) 861-2337 or (717) 861-2802.

For information, call DSN 491-2647 or (717) 861-2647 or visit www.armymwr.com.

Knights attempt to surpass record

By Eric S. Bartlett
Army News Service

WEST POINT—Army baseball ventured into uncharted territory with a 37-15 record last season, obliterating their 1997 season with 26 wins.

Eighteen lettermen return to the squad this season, bringing

hope that the team can reach even greater heights.

If the Black Knights repeat as winners of the Patriot League championship and make the NCAA Regional once again, it would be the first time in school history they would achieve those feats in back-to-back seasons.

Army's success on the diamond has been cultivated by Head

Coach Joe Sottolano's first recruiting class, who are now seniors, and a couple of blue-chip sophomores that have brought an electric atmosphere to Johnson Stadium at Doubleday Field.

"(Our seniors) have done a tremendous job, they've been through the growing spurts to where we are now," Sottolano said. "When they leave here, their

ghosts, so to speak, will stay back with these other players. (Their success) is going to mold this program for many years to come."

The leader of that senior corps is catcher Schuyler Williamson, who adds a blend of power and speed to his natural leadership abilities as a backstop to guide the Black Knights.

Williamson, a preseason All-

America candidate at catcher, hit an academy record 12 home runs last year and stole 18 bases. He started the season slow this year, but he believes it's just a matter of time before he breaks out.

"I have all the confidence in the world in myself, even though I'm struggling right now," said

See Knights, Page 10

Sweat for lunch

Many pick workout over food

By Austin Meek
Staff writer

While many Americans are chowing down on Big Macs and fries, a growing number of Fort Riley residents are opting for a healthier lunch break. King Field House is a popular lunchtime destination for health-conscious Soldiers and civilians. Busy schedules drive many people to the gym over their lunch breaks, said Sgt. Jason Miller, a lunchtime regular at King Field House.

"After being at work all day, you just want to go home and spend time with your family," he said. "Lunch seems to be the best time for me to work out."

Miller, who goes to the gym four or five times a week, said his lunchtime workout is a good supplement to the Army's required physical training.

"In the morning, we have an hour of PT, but sometimes that's not enough," Miller said. "Working out over lunch helps me maintain the Army (fitness) standards. I could be going home for lunch, but sometimes you have to make sacrifices."

Ginny Lopez, a military spouse, said the benefits of working out make the sacrifice worthwhile.

"I feel more energetic when I work out," Lopez said. "I feel better about myself. It makes me happy."

Spe. Gary Rehbein also sees the value of a regular workout regimen.

"It promotes future physical fitness," Rehbein said. "There's nothing better than being healthier and living longer."

Rehbein said he exercises three times a day—in the morning, over lunch and after work. He has followed this routine every day for the last year.

Rehbein practices martial arts and is training for his second-degree black belt. He said he devotes several hours each day to martial arts training.

"If you're just getting started (in martial arts), you can get away with training for an hour a day," Rehbein said. "But once you get into the upper echelon, you have to do two or three hours of martial arts training a day."

Civilian employee Cindy Colson isn't training for a black belt, but she sees the value of working out over lunch. Colson said she comes to King Field House during her lunch break at least three times a week in order to meet the standards of the Garrison Commander's fitness program.

"Part of the program gives us the chance to work one-on-one with a fitness coordinator to establish an individual program," Colson said. "(The fitness coordinator)



Post/Meek
Military spouse Deidra Loudia works out over the lunch hour at King Field House.

showed me what machines would be best for me."

Employees are allowed to take administrative time from work to participate in the fitness program, but Colson said she prefers to go to the gym during her lunch break.

"I can't really get away from work during the day," Colson said. "I usually come here on my own time."

Whether they come to brush up on their martial arts or to meet requirements for a fitness program, the lunchtime patrons of King Field House seem to have one thing in common: they want to be healthy.

"I'm not trying to make the cover of any muscle man magazine," Miller said. "I just want to stay in shape."



Post/Meek
Cindy Colson works out on one of her favorite machines, the lateral raise, in the weight room at King Field House.

Scion Slam starts soon

Basketball 3-on-3 games kick off May 14

The Passion Group
Special to the Post

TORRANCE, Calif. — U.S. military personnel and their families are invited to compete in the Scion Slam 3-on-3 Military Base Basketball Tournament touring the country this spring. The traveling one-day tournament and "Tip Off Party" will visit Fort Riley May 14.

Each stop on the 14-base tour kicks off with a Friday night on-base "Tip-off" party featuring local DJs spinning the most recent hip-hop music. In addition to the tournament, Scion Slam will feature interactive entertainment and ride and drive courses for test drives in the Scion xA, Scion xB and Scion tC.

Scion will also offer a variety of other activities and opportunities to win prizes including a Scion vehicle of the winner's choice.

The tournament is open to all authorized U.S. Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons, including active duty and retired military, reservists, National Guardsmen, Department of Defense civilians, other Department of Defense ID card holders, and their spouses and family members who are 17 years of age or older at the time of the tournament.

Eligible participants can register for the tournament by visiting www.scion.com/scionslam on the Web.

Attendees who wish to participate in the ride and drive activities must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driver's license.

The 2005 Scion Slam 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament staff is working closely with the Fort Riley MWR directorate staff. Each location on the scheduled tour will have a tournament winner.

One base per military branch, based on the amount of participation at the tournament, will be named an overall Scion Slam champion and receive a gala party celebrating the victory.

Morel mushroom hunting season open

By Gibran Sulieman
Wildlife Biologist

With the long awaited arrival of spring come dreams of monster spring gobblers, stringers full of crappie and sacks full of morel mushrooms. Although many people are unfamiliar with the art of mushroom hunting, morel hunting has quite a following.

The morel, genus Morchella, is

a highly sought after fungus because of its exquisite taste. Many will argue there is no other mushroom that can beat it. In fact, many restaurants will pay top dollar to mushroom hunters in order to be able to run a dinner special featuring morels.

For a week or two this spring, the woodlands on post will have thousands of morels emerging from the earth. But, it is crucially important that morel hunters



Gibran Sulieman

know what they're doing before they eat any kind of wild fungus. While there are many edible mushrooms that grow in Kansas, many are toxic

and can even kill the diner.

According to the 1999 Annual Report of the North American Mycological Association Mushroom Poisoning Case Registry, there were 105 human cases of mushroom poisonings reported that year. Two of those were fatal.

It is always recommended that when eating a wild mushroom to first take a small nibble and to wait 24 hours before consuming more. An old bromide repeated by

mushroom collectors says: "There are old mushroom hunters and there are bold mushroom hunters, but there are no old, bold mushroom hunters."

The best way for a mushroom neophyte to get started is to hunt with someone who has a lot of experience looking for morels. Not only will they teach you how to identify mushrooms, but they

See Morels, Page 10





Knights continued from page 9

Williamson, who is batting .212 with no homers. "But it doesn't matter because we're on a (10)-game winning streak, and that's the way I try to approach things. If I can help this team ... accomplish our goal of winning two championships in a row, that's why I come to the ballpark."

Sottolano likes the dimension that Williamson offers the team as a catcher who can steal and the intangibles of making others around him thrive.

"We're blessed that he's with us. Schuyler is a tremendous player," Sottolano said. "He has the ability to make others around him better and that's the important thing."

Williamson has had a hand in making the pitching staff much better. Last year's squad finished

12th nationally with a 3.44 earned run average. So far through 15 games this year, the pitching staff has produced a 2.95 ERA with six shutouts led by senior Justin Kashner and sophomore Nick Hill.

Kashner (3-1, 0.59) and Hill (4-0, 0.67) have been lights out heading into April's league play. The two have combined for 64 strikeouts and only seven walks in 57.1 innings pitched.

Pitching is the straw that stirs the drink at West Point, and in addition to Williamson, Pitching Coach Fritz Hamburg has brought an amazing feel of control to the staff.

"Coach Hamburg and Schuyler have helped me progress a ton, both mechanically and the mental side of the game," Hill explained.



Freshman pitcher Cole White works out as the Army Black Knight baseball team enters a new season. The Black Knights set a record of 37-15 last season, the best year in the team's history.

Army News Service photo

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Morels continued from page 9

might also give you some helpful hints on finding morels.

There also are many field guides on mushrooms available. One good book for this region is "A Guide to Kansas Mushrooms" written by Bruce Horn, Richard Kay and Dean Able.

There are no set rules to follow when looking for morels because they show up in many places. However, timing is very important when looking for morels.

They typically emerge in Kansas in April or early May.

I will start to look after the first good rain we receive and when the temperature stays above 50 degrees. Morels are easiest to find the day after a rain.

Every seasoned mushroom hunter has his or her own theories on where to search for morels. A good start for beginners would be to look for morels around dead elm trees or cottonwoods along

creeks or rivers. But keep in mind that they can be found growing almost anywhere. Sometimes you might find a lone morel, whereas other times you might find dozens upon dozens.

You do not need a permit to collect morels on Fort Riley. You do, however, need to make sure any area where you hunt is open for nonconsumptive use and you have a natural resources vehicle marker (available at Building

1020) on the dashboard of your vehicle. The DES open area hotline phone number is 239-6669.

Morels can be prepared a number of ways, but they should always be washed well and cooked. One of the simplest ways is to sauté them in butter and add a little bit of seasoning.

Many people prefer to bread them; others will stuff them. EJ just remember, like many things, it can make you sick if you eat too much.

DAILY UNION
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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, April 8, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Community news briefly

Spring home tours scheduled

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley will sponsor the annual Spring Tour of Homes from 2 to 6 p.m. April 24. It begins at St. Mary's Chapel and will tour through homes on Main Post. Cost for the tour is \$5. The society asks that you not bring children.

For information, call Alma Gutierrez at 784-2282 or the Cavalry Museum at 239-2737.

School to host spring carnival

The Fort Riley Elementary Spring Carnival will run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 30. Tickets are required for all food and games.

Tickets will be on sale April 25-29 for five for \$1 at the school. Tickets will be four for \$1 the day of the carnival.

Breakfast starts special event

Organizers of Month of the Military Child events invite all military ID card holders to eat a free pancake breakfast from 10 to 10:45 a.m. April 9 at School Age Services, Building 6620.

Shuttle service will be provided back to Fort Riley at 1 and 3:15 p.m. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and takes place in Junction City Municipal Building at Seventh and Jefferson streets.

RSVP to 239-5077 or 239-9478 by April 8 for the breakfast and bus transportation.

Scouts offer free childcare

Girl Scout Troop 2034 is offering free childcare for spouses of deployed Soldiers on from 4 to 7 p.m. April 16 at the Junction City Parks and Recreation's Twelfth Street Community Center. Spaces are limited. To register, call (800) 432-0286, extension 44.

Post-wide sale set for April 30

Fort Riley will host a post-wide yard sale open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 30. People without a government ID card must show a valid vehicle registration, proof of current auto insurance and a valid driver's license to gain entry at Fort Riley's access points.

Cake class set for spouses

The Soldier and Family Support Center will offer a fun cooking class April 11 for spouses of deployed Soldiers. "Cut-Up Cakes" will teach spouses how to decorate special cakes from noon to 3 p.m.

Spouses will select one of the featured cakes – a turtle, lion, elephant, rabbit, rocking horse, butterfly, sailing ship, dog, fish, swan or duck – and will get to take it home after making it.

To register for the class, call 239-9435. Childcare is free.

Youth services post activities

April is the Month of the Military Child, and Youth Services will have a Military Child Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 9 in Junction City. For more information, call 239-9173.

Workshop helps women 'THRIVE'

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Nearly 80 military spouses gathered to share their stories and learn from others' experiences March 31. It was all part of the "Take Hold of Reality and Invest for Victory in the End," or THRIVE, workshop on Fort Riley.

Coordinated by military spouse

Renee Teetsel, the workshop was designed to help spouses of deployed Soldiers, "accept what is for what it is."

"This is my situation. This is my circumstance. You have to let go of the anger of being in this situation and deal with it before you can move forward and invest for victory in the end," Teetsel said.

While the program was designed mainly for spouses of

deployed Soldiers, any spouse was welcome to attend. In fact, Teetsel has been an Army wife for 26 years and has never experienced a deployment, she said. But she said she coordinated the workshop to help spouses deal with issues they face while their husbands are gone.

"When I went to the redeployment last fall, I observed the ladies waiting in the bleachers. As I looked at them, I wondered how

they were really feeling," she said. "I just wanted to do something earlier in the process so when the day or night comes that you go to the hangar, you'll be ready for your husband to come home – excited, confident and thrilled."

Teetsel went to spouses who had experienced deployments and asked them to share their stories with others in a talk-show-like setting instead of the traditional

classroom setting. "I know that the Army has spent millions of dollars on family support, but I think sometimes those programs aren't effective because women are relational. They don't respond to PowerPoint presentations, and the Army is male-driven in that manner," Teetsel said. "I tried to make THRIVE really personal and hit them at the

See THRIVE, Page 13

Spin masters



JROTC cadets compete

By Austin Meek
Staff writer

Junior ROTC cadets from across the Midwest gathered at Junction City High School on April 2 for the 22nd annual Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet.

More than 500 cadets from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Nebraska participated in the event, said retired Lt. Col. Robert Kennedy, senior Army instructor at Junction City High School.

The tournament featured several different events, including armed regulation drill, unarmed regulation drill, unarmed exhibition, color guard, individual drill, individual drill with weapon and dual drill with weapon.

The Blue Jay Battalion's Cadet Lt. Col. Hedrick Cintron and Cadet 1st Lt. Gregory Wagner earned first place and Cadet Capt. Benne Bauman and Cadet 1st Sgt. Kyle Cobb took second in the dual drill with weapon event.

Cintron also placed second in the individual drill with weapon competition.

As the host school, JCHS did not compete in the armed regulation drill, unarmed exhibition and unarmed regulation drill events.

"Our cadets' main purpose is to run the meet for the other schools," Kennedy said. "Competing in the team events would present a conflict of interest. They performed like every other competing school, but their results were not tabulated."

Running the meet was no small task, said Cadet Sgt. Jerry Santiago.

"It was a lot of hard work," he said. "We were here early in the morning setting up."

The tournament began at 8 a.m. and ended with an awards ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Bellevue West No. 1 earned first place overall and Bellevue West No. 2 placed second.

In addition to giving cadets the opportunity to showcase their skills, the meet served as a fundraiser for Junction City's JROTC program. The program made about \$2,000 from entry fees and concessions, Kennedy said.

Overall, Kennedy said he was pleased with the outcome of the meet and complimented his cadets on their hard work.

"The meet was a resounding success," he said. "Our mission was accomplished in an outstanding manner. The cadets did a superb job of organizing and running the meet."

Cadet Capt. Benne Bauman (left) and Cadet 1st Sgt. Kyle Cobb perform their dual drill with weapons in the Junction City High School courtyard. Bauman and Cobb placed second in the event at the Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet.

Local Soldiers serve as drill competition judges

By Austin Meek
Staff writer

Thirteen noncommissioned officers from Fort Riley's Sergeant Audie Murphy Club volunteered their time to judge high school Junior ROTC cadets at the Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet on April 2.

SAMC Vice President Staff Sgt. Richard Yniguez said part of the club's mission is to give back to the Fort Riley community by volunteering at events like the JROTC drill competition.

"Community support is our big thing," Yniguez said. "We want to give back what Fort Riley has given us."

While the NCOs' primary purpose was to evaluate the cadets, Yniguez said

they were also there to serve as role models.

"Mentoring is what we strive for," Yniguez said. "We are not only here to judge. We are here to be a role model, to make an impression on these soon-to-be leaders."

The cadets are the Army's future, Yniguez said, so it's important for them to have positive role models. Because

SAMC members are the best of the best, it's appropriate for them to serve in that capacity, he said.

"I look at these guys as young Soldiers," Yniguez said. "What better military role models is there for a young Soldier than SAMC?"

After observing the cadets in action,

See Judges, Page 12





Spinning rifles tedious work

By Austin Meek
Staff writer

You don't learn how to spin a rifle overnight. It takes tremendous dedication and long hours of practice, cautioned Cadet Lt. Col. Hedrick Cintron.

"This is my sport, 24/7," said Cintron, leader of Junction City High School's Junior ROTC drill team.

Cintron said, before this year, he was one of the few Junction City cadets who knew how to spin. The demanding training schedule and technical difficulty of spinning a rifle scared away many cadets, he said.

"It was hard to find people who

were willing to learn," Cintron said.

Cintron took it upon himself to put together a competitive drill team at JCHS. He recruited several of his friends to join the team and spent a summer teaching them how to spin their rifles.

"I spent some long hours over at their houses," Cintron said. "It was a lot of hard work."

The hard work continued into the school year when the cadets began a grueling practice schedule. The team practiced three times a week before school and on Saturdays.

Cintron said he is proud of his teammates for putting in so much hard work. "They could be doing

other things, like sleeping in, but they come here to practice," he said.

It took five or six months to put the team's routine together, Cintron said. Choreographing a group routine is much more difficult than putting together an individual or dual drill, he said.

"(A team drill) is much harder," Cintron said. "We have to work on timing and precision. We're trying to get everyone to do the same thing."

At this year's Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet, the JCHS drill team performed but did not compete in the armed exhibition event. The school's Cadets were allowed to compete in the individual and dual events, however, and Cintron was successful in both categories. He earned second place in the individual event and first place in the dual event.

Cintron and his partner, Cadet First Lt. Gregory Wagner, received perfect scores from four of the five judges in the dual drill event.

JCHS Cadets Benne Bauman and Kyle Cobb placed second in the dual event. Bauman learned the art of spinning a rifle from Cintron and said dedication is the key to success, even if that means sacrificing some other activities.

"It takes a lot of dedication," Bauman said. "That's why Cintron is so good. He isn't involved in any other activities."

Activities are not the only things that must be sacrificed by members of the Blue Jay Battalion's armed exhibition team. Cadets also have to sacrifice their bodies on occasion.

"This is normal," Bauman said, proudly displaying a gash on his hand. "We're always getting cuts and bruises."



Post/Meek

From left to right: Cadet Lt. Col. Hedrick Cintron, Cadet 1st Sgt. Joel Rosado and Cadet Capt. Benne Bauman rehearse their armed drill at the Mid-America Invitational.



Post/Baker

Windy parade

Four-year-old Marqueece Butler squeezes his eyes shut during the windy afternoon April 1 while parading down the street with his mother, Sabine. The Child Development Center invited parents to help kick off celebrations for Month of the Military Child by walking with their children in the annual parade.

Judges continued from page 11

Yniguez was confident that the Army's future is in good hands.

"These cadets are just as disciplined as our own Soldiers," Yniguez said. "They showed a lot of skills."

The judges for the drill competition were: Staff Sgt. Richard Yniguez, 977th Military Police

Company; Staff Sgt. Darren Bar-

toe, 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance); Master Sgt. Larry D. Emanuel, Dental Activity; Sgt. 1st

Class Todd C. Hokanson, 523rd MP Det.; and Sgt. 1st Class Eva

B., Staff Sgt. Leslie Wearing-

Dixon and 1st Sgt. Randi Ham-

den, Co. B. From Medical Department Activity: Staff Sgt. Rowan Lee-

hue, Staff Sgt. Tryone Manning, Sgt. 1st Class Gary Moore, Staff Sgt. Gary Ream and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Stuart.

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Community news briefly

Wives' club slates meeting

The Officers' and Civilians' Wives' Club will meet at 11 a.m. for lunch at Riley's Conference Center. Those wishing to attend should contact Janelle Allen at 784-4228 by noon April 13.

The luncheon meeting will honor the volunteers who have helped the club the past year.

Class to help home-alone kids

School Age Services is offering "Home Alone" training to children 10 and older. The training focuses on skills children need to remain safe if they are home alone.

Classes are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 18, May 13, June 16 and July 14 in Building 6620.

Cost for the class is free to children enrolled with Child Youth Services and \$10 for children not enrolled. Parents may attend. For more information, call 239-5077 or 239-9478.

Red Cross sets baby-sitter class

The American Red Cross has scheduled a baby-sitting class for April 16 in Building 5800.

Youths must be at least 11 years old to attend the class. Anyone age 12 to 18 who successfully completes the class qualifies to be listed on the Fort Riley Teen Baby Sitter Referral List, with parental permission. Cost for the class is \$10.

For more information, call 239-5077 or 239-4847.

Scholarships available

Combined Scholarship Committee scholarship applications are available online at www.riley.army.mil. Click on the Current News link and scroll down to Briefs. Click on CSC Scholarship Application and follow the directions to fill out the application.

Copies of the application also are available from guidance counselors at local high schools, the Soldier and Family Support Center, Fort Riley Thrift Shop and the Education Center.

Applications must be submitted by April 15. Scholarships will be awarded in May and will be for the fall semester of 2005.

For more information, call Shawnee Sticca at 784-3191.

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Body health key to overall success

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles about what military spouses discussed in the THRIVE workshop at Fort Riley March 31. Next week's article looks at "Sleeping Single in a Double Bed," dealing with relationships while spouses are deployed.

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Putting yourself and your health first isn't always an easy piece of advice for military spouses to follow.

"So often, we're taking care of everybody else and we're not taking care of ourselves," said THRIVE workshop coordinator Renee Teetsel. THRIVE is an acronym for "Take Hold of Reality and Invest for Victory in the End."

"Taking care of yourself sounds selfish, but I have learned when you take the time to take care of yourself, everything else becomes easier," said Kristin Spurlock. Spurlock has been an Army wife for seven years and has a son nearly 3 years old.

Her husband, Capt. John Spurlock, is in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

She shared her physical and emotional struggles as she battled her weight and health at the THRIVE workshop conducted March 31 at Riley's Conference

Center on post.

"I put on weight and didn't know how," Spurlock said, adding that ignorance and denial compounded her problems.

"I can totally relate to that. I gained 40 pounds ... and didn't know how," Teetsel said. "Kristin and I agreed that it was not as though we were eating half a pie ... not ignoring, but unconsciously reaching for food ... and I think that when we're under stress, we reach for food in that way, when you're not even aware of what you're doing."

With weight, blood pressure and other related problems, Spurlock said she decided to make changes in her life and take care of herself and, in essence, her family, too.

"I lost weight before for looks ... but this time it was about being a better mother," Spurlock said.

"What really made me move was knowing that I can make someone else's life better by me being healthy."

Eating healthy, exercising and being accountable to someone else to help push and motivate her helped Spurlock lose her weight, she said. Spurlock lost 85 pounds in a year and a half and was able to get her high blood pressure and cholesterol to normal levels.

Eating health is a broad term, Spurlock said, but it's about finding a balance with your body.

"Pay very close attention to your body," Spurlock said.



"Know how much is too much ... Also, if you don't eat enough, you'll lose quickly, but then your body goes into starvation mode."

Exercising regularly was easier with the treadmill she had at home, Spurlock said. However, with a baby at home, she said she had to be flexible about when she exercised. At the same time, she had to remain dedicated.

"He would cry, and I sat there and I would cry with him and say, 'Baby, I know you want mommy, but I'm gonna be a better mama,' and it worked. He got adjusted to it, I got adjusted to it, we just pushed through," she said.

In addition to the treadmill, Spurlock said she takes a lot of walks outdoors with the stroller and does strength training with videos. The most important goal Spurlock said she made was "a commitment to myself, and not to a plan." Being flexible is key, she said.

"(I exercise) any different time of the day. I have five different times in the day where I have (exercise) slots. Every day is a new day, and if I didn't work out yesterday, I say, well, today, I

have to. Since I've been doing that, I've been committed to it," she said.

In addition to physical health, mental and emotional health is important concerns, Teetsel and Spurlock said.

"Remember, garbage in, garbage out. I'm always careful about what I put in my mind. I have enough drama in my life," she said, adding that she avoids high-drama TV shows.

Spurlock recommends trying a new hobby, something not normally considered while your husband is home. Scrapbooking has been a hobby Spurlock said she found she really enjoys.

Making friends and getting involved in activities, groups or programs has also helped Spurlock mentally and emotionally, she said.

"Getting involved gives you a support system when you need it and the socialization you need," she said.

Having child play groups and neighborhood potlucks are other ways to socialize and get involved with your neighborhood, Spurlock said.

"This is what worked for me ... do what works for you," Spurlock said.

"When you take care of yourself, you say, 'I'm worth it.'"

THRIVE

continued from page 11

heart level and not the head."

Discussed at the workshop were issues military spouses face every day: health, relationships, finances and dealing with children. Several spouses shared their personal experiences with the group. In between each session, women divided into smaller groups to discuss their thoughts on the presented issues.

"I love the variation of the classes. It dealt with different issues I felt were relevant," said

workshop attendee Georgia Dirks. "With my husband being gone, I'm really excited about learning to cope with four teenagers. It was also fun to get together with other wives."

The workshop was an overall success, Teetsel said, and she hopes to hold another one in the future.

"The biggest challenge is reaching young wives. We have to keep working on that," Teetsel said.

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Community news briefly

Crafts staff makes schedule

April 9 and 10 – 2 to 4 p.m., introduction to black and white photography
April 10 – 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrapbooking get-together
April 11 – 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross-stitch
April 11 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ceramic painting (lower pots)
April 11, 12 and 15 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., intro to stained glass
April 11 and 12 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., intermediate and advanced stained glass
April 12 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood class (flower boxes)
For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Teen Center activities slated

April 8 – 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance
April 9 – 9 to 11:30 p.m., high school dance
April 15 – 8 to 10 p.m., Teen Center party
For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

BOSS sets activities

April 15 – Rusty Club Classic Golf Tournament
April 22 – Six Flags at Arlington, Texas, trip (call ITR at 239-5614 by April 11 to reserve your spot)
For more information, call 239-8147.

Rally Point offers fun

April 8 – 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night with family friendly movie, music and buffet
April 13 – 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday Wing Night
April 15 – 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night with family friendly movie, music and buffet
For more information, call 784-5434

Landscape class planned

The staff at the Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center is coordinating a basic landscaping class to be given from 1 to 2 p.m. April 9 at West Acres Nursery, 2516 W. Kansas Highway 18, Junction City. Cost is free but those interested are asked to register with Outdoor Rec by calling 239-2249.
Participants will have the opportunity to learn how to design and prepare plant beds and proper plants for the Fort Riley area.

Networking workshop set

The Fort Riley Family Advocacy Program and other community organizations will present an informal networking workshop from 10 a.m. to noon April 12 at Riley's Convention Center.
Refreshments and on-site childcare will be provided. Attendees must register early to obtain childcare.
Register at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264 or by e-mail at site 2665@riley.army.mil.

Class for dads planned locally

"Dads in the 21st Century" will be offered to help fathers learn more about their unique role and contributions in a child's life. The class will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 12, 14, 19, 22, 26 and 28 in the Family Network Learning Center, Junction City Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson St. A meal will be served from 6 to 6:30 p.m.
For more information or to register, call the Communities in Schools Office at 717-4021 or send e-mail to JimWilliams@usd475.org.



Post/Baker

Test preparation

Douglas Day (left) acts like a winner in a Fort Riley Elementary School skit called "Mr. Prepared vs. Mr. Unprepared." The presentation reminded children to be ready for the state assessments March 29 to April 1.



During a special presentation March 28, children of Fort Riley Elementary School cheer and clap for Douglas Day and for being prepared for the state assessments. The assessments evaluated the school's progress toward educating fourth- and fifth-graders to the state's standard.

Remembrance scheduled

Got ideas? Call 239-8854.

Staff report

A survivor of the Nazi concentration camps will address people attending this year's Days of Remembrance observance at 11:45 a.m. April 14 at Riley's Conference Center.
Peter Loth of Forerunners Ministry in Kansas City was born in Stutthof Concentration Camp but didn't know that until 1990. He visited his birthplace in 2002.
Loth knew he had spent the

first 16 years of his life growing up in communist labor camps for children and in an orphanage. While so interred, he was forced to work and remembers having to wear the Star of David to show the world he was Jewish.
He will talk about his experiences with anti-Semitism.
Following the formal observance, a kosher buffet will be provided by a Manhattan caterer so attendees can sample some examples of Jewish food.

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COTTONWOOD THEATERS
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McCain season finishes musically

By Amber Haag

Kansas State University

MANHATTAN — The Kansas State University McCain Performance Series season closes with a children's musical at 3 p.m. April 17.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is based on a C.S. Lewis adventure story. The story is about four children of war-torn England who accidentally enter the land of Narnia by climbing through a magic wardrobe.

Narnia is a strange and wondrous place ruled by a cold-hearted witch. The children fulfill an ancient prophecy by defeating the witch and restoring the lion to his throne.

Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.k-state.edu/mccain> or by calling the McCain box office at (785) 532-6428 weekdays between noon and 5 p.m.



U.S. Cavalry Museum

This painting by renowned military artist Don Troiani is the newest addition to the art collection at the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Fort Riley.

Museum collection gets new painting

By Bill McKale

Museum curator

The U. S. Cavalry Museum added another important piece of original artwork to its collection recently. The oil and acrylic painting, "The 4th Continental Light Dragoons, 1779-81" by Don Troiani, is on display in the museum's art gallery.

The painting depicts two mounted soldiers during the latter part of the American Revolution. They are uniformed in short green coats with red facings, red woolen waistcoats and leather breeches. Surmounting this dress were leather helmets with bearskin crests.

The 4th Continental was one of four mounted regiments created during the revolution. They were under the command of Stephen Moylan, a former Philadelphia merchant.

Soldiers from this unit served throughout the war but earned distinction at the battle of Monmouth. They were principally recruited in Pennsylvania but included Jerseymen, Marylanders and Virginians.

Two other paintings by noted American military artist Don Troiani are being exhibited. They are "2nd Cavalry Bugler" and "Brandy Station." Both paintings deal with the Civil War period.

To view the new painting, visit www.riley.army.mil, click on "Recreation" and look for "Museums."

The U. S. Cavalry Museum is located in Building 205 on Main Post. It is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

For more information, call (785) 239-2737.

Classified
4 x 21.25"
Black Only





Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, April 8, 2005

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

April 8 – The Pacifier (PG)
April 9 – Man Of the House (PG-13)

April 10 – The Pacifier (PG)
April 14 – Cursed (PG-13)

April 15 – Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)

For more information, call (785) 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Lawrence:

What: Jubilant Sykes, baritone. Jubilant describes the man and the emotion in this musical salute to two renowned singers of the last century, Paul Robeson and Nat King Cole.

When: 7:30 p.m. April 15

Where: 1600 Stewart Drive, Lied Center of Kansas

Phone: (785) 864-2787

Admission: Varies

Leavenworth:

What: Fort Leavenworth Homes Tour and Frontier Army Encampment

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 16

Where: Grant and Kearney Avenue, Fort Leavenworth

Phone: (913) 684-3186 or (800) 844-4114

Admission: Varies

Topeka:

What: "Lion In Winter," Topeka Civic Theatre performance.

When: Dinner at 6 p.m., show at 8 p.m., April 22 through May 7

Where: 3028 SW 8th Avenue, Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy

Phone: (785) 357-5211

Admission: Show \$18; dinner \$16

Ellsworth:

What: C.O.W.B.O.Y.S. Spring Gather. 1870s cow camp, chuckwagons, gunfights, living history, stories, and music around the campfire. All-horse parade.

When: All day April 15-17

Where: Recreation Center

Phone: (785) 472-4071

Admission: Free

What: End of the Trail Ranch Rodeo, Ranch Horse Show, Chuckwagon. Ranch cowboys compete in ranch events. RHAA ranch horse competition, chuckwagon cook-off, historic 1870 cowcamp. A real cowboy gathering.

When: All day April 15-17

Where: Elkan Rodeo Arena and Recreation Center

Phone: (785) 472-4071

Admission: \$5

Salina:

What: Over the Tavern. Join the Pazinskis, living above their Buffalo, N.Y., family tavern, in

this charming comedy about life and family.

When: April 15-17

Where: 303 E. Iron, Salina Community Theatre

Phone: (785) 827-6126 or (877) 414-2367

Admission: \$18-\$21

What: Pilobolus Dance Theatre. A dance performance highlighted by humor and invention by one of the most highly regarded dance companies.

When: 7:30 p.m., April 16

Where: 151 S. Santa Fe, Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts

Phone: (785) 827-1998

Admission: \$35-\$20

What: Coyote Tales by the Dallas Children's Theatre. A fiesta of music, dance and puppetry based on Mexican folk tales by one of the country's best children's theatres.

When: 7 p.m. April 22

Where: 151 S. Santa Fe, Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts

Phone: (785) 827-1998

Admission: \$5-\$16

What: By-Gone Days. Demonstrations of rural and agricultural lifestyle including running Sawmill, Steam Engine, re-enactments, one-room school in session, and activities for the kids.

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 23 and April 24

Where: 1100 W. Diamond Drive, Yesteryear Museum

Phone: (785) 825-8473

Admission: \$5 at the gate, \$4 in advance

What: "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." Conveys the inspirational magic that has captivated young readers for decades.

When: 3 p.m. April 17

Where: McCain Auditorium

Phone: (785) 532-6428

Admission: Varies

What: Find Your Element Adventure Sports & Music Festival. Three-day event featuring local sports and music with an emphasis on mountain biking and local trails. Demonstrations and activities held on two days as well as live local music, vendors, and a mountain bike race on Sunday.

When: 3 to 11 p.m. April 22, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. April 23 and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24

Where: 8800 Road W. in Randolph Fancy Creek State Park

Phone: (785) 776-8829

Admission: Minimal

What: Fishing Tournament. Features a unique format: five different categories for anglers to enter.

When: 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22-23

Where: 823 N. Washington St.

Phone: (785) 238-2885

Admission: Free



Young passengers enjoy a ride on the Tulip Blossom Special at Wamego's annual Tulip Festival.

Wamego Chamber of Commerce

Wamego festival blooms

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

Although springtime brings hailstorms, tornados, thunderstorms and floods, the season change also tempts people out of doors into warm air, cool nights and bright sunshine to celebrate spring.

The city of Wamego attracts lots of children, young adults and

those who are young at heart to its Tulip Festival at the city park every April. This year's festival is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 16 and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 17.

In the park, visitors can expect to see arts and crafts, a quilt show, specialty food vendors, a petting zoo, pony rides and the colorful tulip blossoms, said Chad Bunger, Wamego Chamber of Commerce

director.

Visitors can take part in activities such as horseshoe pitching, a vocal contest, Dutch Mill and Museum tours, trolley rides, a 5K run/walk and a Metric Bike Ride.

The historic city also offers reminders of the past in its homes, its 19th Century opera house, the Oz Museum and the Columbian Theatre.

If you go:

Take Interstate 70 east from Fort Riley to exit 328 and take Kansas Highway 99 north right into Wamego.

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1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 Prairie Hawk Apr TF

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GETCO-APC
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KANSAS PRESS
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